

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-01 (ISO) W
----- 020399

R 181244Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0371

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 3499

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, HU

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR SHORT TERM LEASE

REFERENCES: A) STATE 16173;

B) BUDAPEST 3490

1. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH DIPLOMATIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF FONOFF REGARDING ACQUISITION NEW SHORT TERM LEASED HOUSING FOR SECURITY OFFICER BUT TO NO AVAIL. AS DEPT AWARE HOUSING SITUATION IN BUDAPEST GENERALLY EXTREMELY TIGHT. SOME AMBASSADORS HAVE BEEN IN HOTELS FOR AS LONG AS SIX MONTHS DESPITE STRONG DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE BROUGHT TO BEAR BY THEIR FONOFFS, AND RENTALS ARE SKYROCKETING.

2. IN THIS SITUATION FONOFF NOW INFORMS US THAT IT IS SHORTLY PUTTING INTO EFFECT NEW PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES REGARDING SHORT AND LONG TERM LEASES. AMONG PROVISIONS PROPOSED ARE FOLLOWING: A) ALL LEASES MUST BE SIGNED BY

OCCUPYING OFFICERS AND GUARANTEED BY THEIR EMBASSIES; D) IF FOR ANY REASON RESIDENT OFFICER LEAVES POST, E.G., ILLNESS, TRANSFER, ETC., NEITHER OFFICER NOR EMBASSY ANY LONGER HAS ACCESS TO PROPERTY. IT REVERTS TO DSD FOR DISPOSITION; C) ALL REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN EVERY THREE YEARS BY DSB AND OUR GENERAL SERVICES PEOPLE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TAKE CARE OF MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS, DAMAGES, ETC.; D)

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IN CONTRAST TO PAST PRACTICE NO LEASE MAY BE SIGNED FOR

LONGER THAN FIVE YEARS AND THE LONGER THE LEASE THE MORE EXPENSIVE THE RENT.

3. MANY DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE ENGAGED IN STRONG IN-FIGHTING WITH THE FONOFF PROTESTING THIS OUTRAGEOUS NEW PROCEDURE. WHAT THE OUTCOME IS LIKELY TO BE NOW IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE.

4. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR VARKONYI (REFTEL B) HE INDICATED THAT FONOFF WOULD HELP US WITH OUR HOUSING NEEDS. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT GOH ITSELF HAS SERIOUS PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA. SUGGESTED WE INFORM FONOFF 8-10 MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF ARRIVAL OF NEW PERSONNEL IMPLICATION CLEARLY BEING THERE IS LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING HOUSING WITHIN SHORTER TIME FRAME. WHILE WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FONOFF TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO OUR NEEDS (DEPT WILL NOTE FROM REF B THAT WE HAVE SUGGESTED LANGUAGE RE GOH RESPONSIBILITY) IN OUR PROPOSED NOTE ON RAISING PERSONNEL CEILING, WE SEE LITTLE PROSPECT OF OBTAINING SUITABLE HOUSING FOR PROPOSED SECURITY OFFICER EARLIER THAN NEXT MAY AND PERHAPS NOT EVEN THEN.
PEDERSEN

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